

(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36

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(1) PREPARATIONS FOR POW EXCHANGE BEING MADE IN NORTHERN LAOS (2) PHYSICAL SPLIT BETWEEN HQ 2D CORPS AND HQ MR TRI-THIEN INDICATED (3) FURTHER TO PREPARATIONS FOR CHINESE FOURTH NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS "XXXX" (4) CAMBODIAN COMMUNIST SEEK TO AVOID FURTHER CONFLICTS WITH VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS (5)

[REDACTED] (1)
PREPARATIONS FOR POW EXCHANGE BEING MADE IN NORTHERN LAOS THE PLANNED MOVEMENT OF PRISONERS OF WAR WAS REVEALED ON 27 AUGUST BY THE NVA 4TH ENGINEER BATTALION OPERATING IN XIENG KHOUANG PROVINCE IN NORTHERN LAOS. THE NUMBERS AND NATIONALITIES OF THE PRISONERS WERE NOT SPECIFIED, BUT THEY WERE TO MOVE ALONG ROUTE 7 SOMETIME DURING THE PERIOD 31 AUGUST TO 4 SEPTEMBER. IN PREPARATION FOR THE PRISONER MOVEMENT, THE 4TH BATTALION IS REPAIRING A 13 KM SECTION OF ROUTE 7 IN THE BAN BAN - XIENG KHOUANG AREA. ACCORDING TO COLLATERAL, THE PATHET LAO ARE SCHEDULED TO RELEASE THEIR PRISONERS AS PART OF A GENERAL POW EXCHANGE AGREEMENT. THE EXCHANGE INCLUDES AN AMERICAN CIVILIAN PILOT AS WELL AS LAOTIANS AND THAIS. (2/00/13372-74, 302041Z AUG) ~~(SECRET SPOKE ISHTAR)~~ (2) PHYSICAL SPLIT BETWEEN HQ 2D CORPS AND HQ MR TRI-THIEN INDICATED ON 27 AUGUST, COMMUNICATIONS WERE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THE HQ NVA 2D CORPS AND THE HQ MR TRI-THIEN IN NORTHERN SOUTH VIETNAM. THE TWO ENTITIES HAD BEEN LOCATED TOGETHER SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE 2D CORPS IN EARLY JUNE AND THUS THE INITIATION OF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO HQ SUGGESTS THAT A PHYSICAL SPLIT HAS OCCURRED. THE COMMUNICATIONS POSTURE OF THE COMBINED HEADQUARTERS HAS INDICATED A SPLIT WAS IN THE OFFING SINCE LATE JUNE WHEN THE THREE MAIN FORCE DIVISIONS IN MR TRI-THIEN ESTABLISHED SEPARATE COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE TWO HQ. ADDITIONALLY, ACCORDING TO COLLATERAL, A HQ WAS BEING CONSTRUCTED IN DONG HA DURING JULY TO HOUSE THE "TRI THIEN CORPS." AS LATE AS 22 AUGUST, THE HQ 2D CORPS REMAINED LOCATED IN PROXIMITY TO THE HQ MR TRI-THIEN IN WESTERN QUANG TRI PROVINCE. (2/00/13424-74, 011902Z) ~~(SECRET SPOKE ISHTAR)~~ (3) FURTHER TO PREPARATIONS FOR CHINESE FOURTH NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS [REDACTED]

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